

# PRESS RELEASE

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## For Immediate Release

December 5, 2007

## Contact Person

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Assistant U.S. Attorney

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that John E. Paul, 51, of Verona, Wisconsin, was sentenced today by Chief U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to 46 months in prison and ordered to pay \$165,479.91 in restitution to the victims of his fraud scheme.

Paul pleaded guilty to one count of mail fraud on September 19, 2007. At the plea hearing, Paul acknowledged devising a scheme to defraud which included listing coins for sale on eBay's online auction site, receiving the money from the winning bidder, and thereafter failing to provide the bidder with the coins Paul had listed for sale. As a result of the scheme, Paul acknowledged defrauding approximately 67 individuals and fraudulently obtaining approximately \$165,479.91.

The charges against John E. Paul were the result of an investigation conducted by the U.S. States Postal Inspection Service and the Madison Police Department . The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Grant C. Johnson.

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